



Advanced Study Institute of Asia
SGT University

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The Sphere of Cultural and Trade Influence

International Conference
February 2025

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Advanced Study Institute of Asia at SGT University invites scholars, researchers, historians, and cultural heritage professionals to submit papers for an upcoming International Conference in February 2025 on *“Indian Cultural Influence and Historical Connections Across South Asia and Southeast Asia”*. This conference seeks to explore and document significant heritage sites, historical accounts, trade relations, and sociopolitical contexts that illustrate the intricate cultural and historical connections between India and its neighboring regions.

Background

The cultural exchange between India and Southeast Asia has a deeply rooted history, shaped by the trade routes, migrating communities and spread of Indian religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism. Indian heritage left a lasting impact on the spiritual life, art, and architecture of countries like Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam. Temples such as Cambodia's Angkor Wat and Indonesia's Borobudur are iconic examples of how Indian traditions influenced Southeast Asian cultures and traditions. These monuments reflect a fusion of Indian philosophies with local customs, creating unique cultural expressions that have endured over centuries.

Trade routes like the Silk Road and the Maritime Silk Route were vital in facilitating not only the exchange of goods but also ideas, technologies, and art between India and Southeast Asia. Indian merchants, scholars, and religious figures brought with them philosophies and political structures that were embraced and adapted by Southeast Asian rulers. This exchange was not one-sided; Southeast Asian leaders selectively incorporated Indian customs and governance models, like the Mandala political system, into their own political landscapes. The resulting cultures are a testament to the dynamic and reciprocal nature of this historical exchange.

The process of Indianization in Southeast Asia was one of mutual enrichment rather than imposition. Southeast Asian societies selectively integrated Indian religious texts like the Ramayana and Mahabharata, reinterpreting them through local cultural lenses.

The influence of Sanskrit further cemented India's role as a centre of learning and religious thought in the region. Over time, this blending of Indian and Southeast Asian traditions created a lasting legacy that continues to influence religious practices, art, and governance in Southeast Asia today, showcasing the deep and enduring impact of India's cultural heritage.

Our conference aims to delve into the **enduring influence of Indian culture on South and Southeast Asia and idea exchange which manifested in religious, artistic, and architectural exchanges across centuries**. We invite submissions that shed light on the following key themes (but not limited to the following):

Themes

- 1. Indian Influence on Southeast Asian Heritage Sites:** Research papers documenting historical monuments and archaeological sites across Southeast Asia that reflect Indian cultural imprints, such as Angkor Wat and Borobudur.
- 2. Cultural Diplomacy and Historical Connections:** Studies on the role of Indian culture in fostering diplomatic, economic, and social relationships across the region, particularly through religion, trade, and governance.
- 3. The Spread of Indian Religious Traditions:** Explorations into the influence of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism in shaping South and Southeast Asia's spiritual and cultural landscapes.
- 4. Trade Routes and Cultural Exchange:** Papers focusing on the historical importance of trade networks like the Silk Road and Maritime Silk Route in transmitting Indian ideas, technologies, and art to Southeast Asia.
- 5. Indianization and Hybrid Cultures:** Studies on how Southeast Asian cultures integrated Indian elements selectively, blending them with indigenous practices to create distinctive hybrid cultural forms.
- 6. Language, Literature, and Religious Texts:** Papers on the influence of Indian religious texts like the Ramayana and Mahabharata and the use of Sanskrit as a scholarly and religious language in Southeast Asia.
- 7. Trade, Travel, and Religious Pilgrimages:** Examining the role of traders and travellers in transmitting Indian religious traditions across Southeast Asia, and how pilgrimages contributed to cultural diffusion.
- 8. Innovation in Ancient Trade and Commerce:** Research on technological advancements and innovations in shipbuilding, navigation, and commerce that facilitated Indian-Southeast Asian trade relationships over time.
- 9. Spices, Textiles, and Luxury Goods:** The Commodities of Exchange Analyzing the trade in luxury items like spices, textiles, and precious metals bolstered economic ties and shaped cultural exchanges between India and Southeast Asia.
- 10. Port Cities as Hubs of Innovation and Cultural Exchange:** Papers exploring the development of port cities like Calicut, Malacca, and Palembang as centres of innovation, commerce, and cultural exchange in the Indian Ocean world

Submission Guidelines

- Abstracts should be between **300-500 words**, outlining the proposed paper's scope, methodology, key arguments and 6 keywords.
- The abstract should read as a **standalone document**.
- Please include a short bio (up to 150 words) with your submission.
- The abstract must be submitted in a **Word document**, formatted in **Times New Roman or Garamond font, size 12, with 1.5 line spacing**
- All submissions should be sent to **khushi@advancedstudy.asia** and **communications@advancedstudy.asia** by **20th October 2024**.
- The full paper must be between **3,000-4,000 words** (excluding the referencing), using **APA citation style**, and submitted as a **Word document**. It should be formatted in **Times New Roman or Garamond font, size 12, with 1.5 line spacing**.
- The full paper must be submitted by **20th December 2024**, following the notification of proposal acceptance. Failure to meet this deadline will result in the rejection of the abstract.

Important Dates

Submission Deadline	20th October 2024
Intimation of Acceptance of Proposal	4th November 2024
Final Submission of Full Paper	20th December 2024
International Conference	February 2025

The papers presented at the conference will be published in the official conference proceedings.

For any query please contact:

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